



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Meeting Conducted Virtually.** On September 22, the primary and associate members of the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee gathered virtually via Microsoft Teams to conduct its September videoconference meeting.
2. **Administrative items.**
 - a. Roll Call. The committee took attendance of those tuning in to the September videoconference.
 - b. Rosters. The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
3. **COVID-19 Advisory Group Update.** The committee received an update related to the current work of the NCAA COVID-19 Advisory Group. Specific details were provided to members on the topics of the expansion of the COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group, as well as the process for soliciting feedback to inform the group's decision making. Additionally, the committee was briefed on specific decisions and recommendations made by the group that directly impact Division III athletics.
4. **SAAC Voice Presentations.** The committee discussed the upcoming initiative where national SAAC members will be tasked with delivering presentations to explain the structure, composition and impact of the committee at the national, conference and campus level. Committee members were updated on the PowerPoint and accompanying script, which both serve the purpose of educating the student-athlete population about what SAAC does and how they represent members in the NCAA governance structure.

Members of the national SAAC will conduct preparatory training sessions for the group, who will then go forth and conduct these educational presentations to their conference committees at its next meetings (when soliciting feedback about legislation). The responsibility will then be on conference SAAC representatives to take the presentation materials and replicate efforts at the

campus level for campus SAAC members, who will then pass that information to all the student-athletes on their campuses. The resources associated with the presentations will be passed to the committee in the weeks following this videoconference.

5. **2021 Convention Legislation.** Staff provided the committee with a review of the 2021 NCAA Convention Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) proposal and reminded the committee of its role and responsibilities in the legislative process. The committee discussed institutional involvement in educating student-athletes about NIL opportunities, as well as the context surrounding existing Division III legislation and previous interpretive/waiver requests.
6. **2020-21 Proactive Student-Athlete Eligibility Waivers.** The committee reviewed the 2020-21 proactive waivers for student-athlete eligibility granted by the NCAA Division III Administrative Committee. Staff provided committee members the opportunity to discuss the waivers and to ask questions about its implementation. Committee members shared feedback gathered from conference administrators and student-athletes, including the following:
 - a. The suggestion that postseason competition should not be included in the calculation of the 50 percent threshold to qualify for waiver relief;
 - b. Uncertainty surrounding the implications of COVID-19 on a student-athlete's eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year causes undue stress for many Division III student-athletes; and
 - c. The proactive waivers are difficult for student-athletes and administrators to interpret and, as a result, may create competitive advantage and other discrepancies across the division.

Following the discussion, the committee reaffirmed its role as the voice for student-athletes across the division. Further, the committee determined that more discussion is necessary between national SAAC and the conferences that committee members represent. The committee acknowledged the need to provide feedback on an accelerated timeline and will work to prepare a statement asserting the committee's opinion in advance of the October Division III Management Council and Presidents Council meetings.

7. **Future Meeting Dates.** In accordance with the NCAA's operating decisions, the committee will continue to meet virtually through August 31, 2021. This will impact the currently scheduled November meeting (Nov. 15-16); as well as the 2021 NCAA Convention, which will take place virtually in January.
8. **Unity Pledge.** The Unity Pledge across the national SAACs from Divisions I, II and III have finalized the language of a unity pledge to condemn injustice across the country, as has a unity mark for uniforms, helmets and more for student-athletes to show their support for the initiative. The committees are now working on media production to amplify the pledge with NCAA staff.
9. **Adjournment.**

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee September 22, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees – Primary Members:	
Madeira Alexander, Salisbury University; Capital Athletic Conference.	
Devonte Amos, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Paxton Blanchard, Keene State College; Little East Conference.	
Janne Brown, Aurora University; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.	
Gerard Bryant, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Mika Costello, Willamette University; Northwest Conference.	
Hannah Durst; Baldwin-Wallace University; Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Charlotte Ellis; Crown College (Minnesota); Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Annabelle Feist, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Bridgett Finn, Lebanon Valley Conference; Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Anthony Francois, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; City University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Cameron Gardner-Nicholson, Penn State University, Altoona; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Brady Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University; American Rivers Conference.	
Catherine Lanigan, Juniata College; Landmark Conference.	
Michael Litz, Penn State University, Abington; North Eastern Athletic Conference.	
Michael McMahon, Becker College; New England Collegiate Conference.	
Jack Mulvihill, St. John Fisher College; Empire 8 Conference.	
Abigail Newkirk, Bluffton University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Mercy Ogutu, Trinity Washington University; Independents.	
Colby Pepper, Covenant College; USA South Athletic Conference.	
Isaiah Swann, University of Texas at Dallas; American Southwest Conference.	
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Attendees – Associate Members:	
Nik Beshere, Bridgewater State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Lillian Chamberlin, Saint Mary's College (IN); Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Ireland Clare Kennedy, Mount Holyoke College; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.	
Liv Coletta, Mills College; American Collegiate Athletic Association.	

Cassie Contigiani; Thomas College; North Atlantic Conference.
Liam Galligan, Franciscan University; Presidents Athletic Conference.
Carlie Hansen, Bryn Mawr College; Centennial Conference.
Owen Harkins, Allegheny College; North Coast Athletic Conference.
Casey Hipp; Knox College; Midwest Conference.
Benjamin James, Guilford College; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Kristin Lasker, State University of New York at New Paltz; State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Morgan Mercier, Emmanuel College; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.
Samantha Munroe, Illinois Wesleyan University; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.
Diamond Onomake, Mount Saint Mary College (New York); Skyline Conference.
Elle Pickrell, Millsaps College; Southern Athletic Association.
Jenna Ruccolo, Case Western Reserve University; University Athletic Association.
Breann Sheaffer, Wilson College; Colonial States Athletic Conference.
Ashley Tutzauer, Cabrini University; Atlantic East Conference.
Talia Williams, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Absentees- Primary Members:
Arcel Kabongo-Ngoy, Western New England University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.
Christine Mayorga, Montclair State University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Absentee- Associate Members
Braedon Dobbs, Fontbonne University; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Justice Mercadel, Austin College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Luisa Valles, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance
Dan Dutcher; Division III governance.
Jeff Myers; Academic and membership affairs.
Louise McCleary; Division III governance.
NCAA Staff Liaisons:
Brynna Barnhart, Enforcement.
Corey Berg, Academic and membership affairs.
Patrick Malin, Leadership development
Adam Skaggs, Division III governance
Ali Spungen, Division III governance